

Washington State Ferries Weekly Update



Sept. 18, 2015

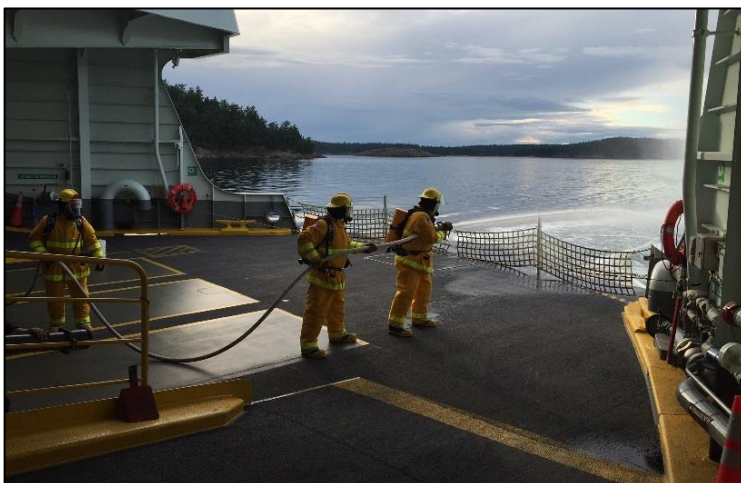
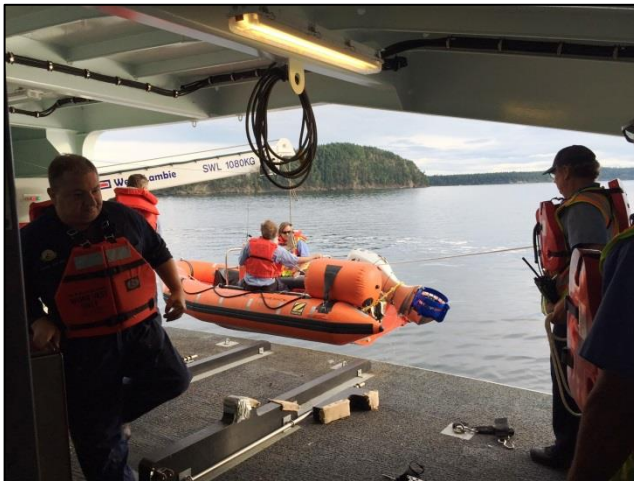
This week:

- State Joint Transportation Committee tours ferry system
- Ferry crew members save life on Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth run
- Fall schedule begins Sunday, Sept. 20
- Customer compliment

State Joint Transportation Committee tours ferry system

On Wednesday and Thursday, more than 25 state legislators, transportation commissioners and staff joined us to explore Washington's marine highway system. We rode the Anacortes/San Juan Islands, Mukilteo/Canton, Edmonds/Kingston and Seattle/Bainbridge routes, visited terminals and dropped in on workers building our next Olympic-class ferry at Vigor Industrial. Over the course of our tour, legislators heard from dozens of skilled ferry crew members, engineers, planners and shipbuilders to get a sense of the successes, challenges and everyday operations that keep people moving across Puget Sound.

A highlight for me was riding the *Samish*, the newest vessel in the fleet, in the San Juan Islands. During the trip our crew members performed man overboard and fire drills to demonstrate how they put their training into action to keep our passengers safe and secure on every trip. Below are some photos from our time aboard the *Samish*. Top left: Crew members are lowered in a rescue boat during the man overboard drill. Top right: Ordinary Seaman Heather Morse explains the vessel's evacuation slides and answers questions from legislators. Bottom row: *Samish* crew members demonstrate on-board firefighting techniques.



I commend our WSF staff for their willingness to share their knowledge and expertise with this group. Thank you to the lawmakers, commissioners and legislative staff who took the time to learn what a day in the life of the ferry system looks like.

Ferry crew members save life on Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth run

Ordinary Seamen Joe Grabicki and George Mack [provided life-saving aid](#) to a Vashon customer on Sunday. The two were working aboard the *Cathlamet*, when crew discovered a man slumped over the steering wheel of his car. Joe and George put their first aid training into action, performing CPR and deploying an AED to restart the man's heart as firefighters arrived. I commend them for their quick, skilled response in this emergency.

Their intervention takes its place among more than 100 incidents so far this year in which our highly trained crew assisted people in need, including other medical emergencies, rescuing people from stranded vessels and helping divers and swimmers in distress. Thank you to Joe, George and the rest of our crew members who step up when people need help.

Fall schedule begins Sunday, Sept. 20

The fall sailing schedule begins Sunday, Sept. 20. This means seasonal schedule adjustments and fewer sailings on some routes. Check our [fall sailing schedule](#) online for details. In addition, [off-peak fares](#) go into effect Thursday, Oct. 1.

Customer compliment

One of our employees went above and beyond to help a customer whose Wednesday morning got off to a rough start:

One of the ferry workers helped me with my flat tire that was discovered when I drove on the (Vashon/Fauntleroy) boat. He was kind and extremely helpful... I really appreciated his help this morning.

Lynne Griffith
Assistant Secretary WSDOT/Ferries Division

Hyperlinks within this email:

KOMO TV story: www.komonews.com/news/local/Ferry-workers-save-passengers-life-on-Vashon-327627171.html

Fall sailing schedule: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/pdf/2015Fall.pdf>

Off-peak fares: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/fares/>

Weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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